

The Daily Gazetteer.

NOV. 257

FRIDAY, APRIL 23. 1736.

91° 257.



Nothing can be more edifying or commendable than public Examples of Gratitude, I have been extremely delighted with a late learned Treatise, intitled, *The Life of MOTHER GIN*, written by an Impartial Hand. The finest Productions of modern Wit having been undoubtedly

owing to the Inspiration of this noble Liquor, it were but a just Retribution that all *Grub-street* should be hung in Mourning on the *Dowry of Gin*; and we see a becoming Concern already in the Graduates and Members of that ancient University. The pious Author above-mentioned hath, in the Manner of a true *Grubian*, published her *Life before she is dead*. That eminent Stationer and *Gin Drinker* Mr. Crull is preparing a true Copy of her last *Will and Testament*. The Reverend and worthy Divine Mr. W—m W—k—t is to preach her *Funeral Sermon*; and the Printer of the *Old Whig* hath bespoke the Copy, for which, I dare answer, he pays the Author with a liberal Hand.

The Life of Mother Gin, which is the first Monument consecrated to her Memory, deserves our early Notice. It is written with all the Gravity, Sincerity, and Circumspection of a severe Historian; and, at the same time, abounds with that Imagination which the celebrated Subject could not fail to inspire. I shall, for the Honour of my *Lucubrations*, give it a Place amongst them, which will doubtless procure me Thanks from all the *Lovers of Gin* in every Part of the Kingdom.

MOTHER GIN was of Dutch Parentage; but her Father, who was a substantial Trader in the City of *Ratterdam* (one of the greatest Marts in Europe) being engaged against the Faction of *De Wit*, when that Republick was under his Administration, was oblig'd to fly to England, to avoid a Persecution that he was threatened with, for knocking down one of the Deputies of the States, as he was going into the *Stadthoufe*, to set his Hand to an *Edict* for taking off the Duty on French Brandy, which was intended as a Preliminary to a Treaty of Peace and Commerce that was then in Agitation between France and Holland. This Incident exceedingly alarmed the *Pensionary*, who finding that his late Measures, particularly his secret and clandestine Negotiations with France, had rendered him generally odious to the People, was under some Apprehensions, that this was only a Forerunner of his own Destruction, as it indeed prov'd; for he was soon after tore to Pieces by the Rabble at the *Hague*: A terrible Lesson to all Ministers how they undertake any thing in Contradiction to the Humour and Disposition, or even Caprice of the Multitude! which ought always to be strictly observ'd and followed in all Affairs of State, whatever the Consequence may be to the Publick.

THE Father of Mother Gin being thus drove into Exile, for the Zeal he shew'd for the Liberties of his Country, contented himself, as became a wife and great Man, to yield to that Torrent which he could not resist. He saw, with the deepest Concern and Anguish of Mind, Tyranny and arbitrary Power rushing in, like an Inundation, upon the Seven Provinces; but as he could not prevent the Ruin which threatened his Country, so he was determined never to be an Eye-witness of it; for which Reason he removed his Person, and such of his Effects as he could secure, and came to settle in London, where he liv'd a private Life, but in good Credit and Reputation; and having acquired a handsome Fortune by his Industry, he married an English Woman, and obtained an Act of Parliament for his Naturalization.

HIS Wife was of very mean and obscure Birth, inasmuch that she was frequently reproach'd by those that were no Friends to her, with being sprung from the *Durghill*, an Expression generally used to denote a Person of low Rank and Parentage: However, she was a Woman of an exceeding high Spirit, and used to boast on such Occasions, of some near Relations of her's, who lived in great Intimacy with several Ladies of the first Quality, who were extremely fond of them, and were never so happy as when they were in their Company. And as to Mother Gin herself, tho' she did not live in a constant Intercourse of

Friendship with Persons of Fashion, yet she was often admitted into their Confidence, and was universally admired, and even idolized by the common People.

MOTHER GIN was the only Offspring of the aforementioned Marriage. Her Father would have given her an Education suitable to his Rank and Station in the World, and have bred her up in the Way of high and polite Life; but her Mother would by no means consent to it. She was of Opinion, that such a fashionable Education corrupted the Morals more than it improved the Mind; that Persons of Quality had no more Knowledge and Understanding, and much less Virtue and Honesty than other People; and that they were generally of so little Use and Importance to the World, that their Time was continually spent in running round a Circle of empty, idle, dangerous, and expensive Pleasures.

WHEN she was about the Age of Five and twenty, her Father died, and her Mother did not long survive him: They were both buried in the same Grave in *Bunhill-fields*; for they were both Dissenters, and suffered much on account of their Principles in the Time of Charles the Second, which imbibed their Minds very much ever after against the Church of England, as approaching too near Popery in her want of Charity, and her Persecution of those that differ'd from her, tho' in Things allowed by all not to be essential to true Faith and primitive Orthodoxy.

BUT the rigid and austere Doctrines of that Persuasion, which the Parents profess'd did not at all suit the Constitution of the Daughter, she no sooner found herself at her own Liberty, but she left the *febrile Party*; and as it has been often observed, upon the like Occasion, of several other eminent Persons who were bred up in the same Principles, she became a zealous and violent Advocate for *High Church*. She distinguished herself particularly in the Cause of Dr. *Sacheverell*; and as she look'd upon him as a Saint and a Confessor, she did that great and learned Divine many signal Services in the Time of his Trouble and Persecution. The Crowds of People that flocked round his Coach to ask his Blessing, and defend his Person, during his Impeachment, and when he went his Progress, were all moved and inspired to that pious Work by Mother Gin, which the Doctor always gratefully acknowledged, and which occasioned so strict an Intimacy, and so perfect a Friendship between her and the Doctor's Lady ever after, that nothing but Death could dissolve.

THE new Ministry finding Mother Gin fall in so readily with their Sentiments and Way of Thinking, very rightly judged, that they could not give a greater Weight and Credit to their Cause, and the Measures they were pursuing, than by taking her into a Share in the *A—n*; but the Manner in which that was to be done, occasioned some Perplexity among them. They could not make her a Privy Counsellor, because the *Attorney General*, who was ordered to search Precedents for that Purpose, had reported, that he could not find one Instance, since the Time of *Alice Pierce*, the Mistress of Edward the Third, where a Woman, that was only a Subject, was admitted to sit at that Board; and he deliver'd it as his Opinion, and laid it down for Law, that that was not a Precedent fit to be followed; but being a Person very skilful in his Profession, and perfectly well acquainted with the Duty of his Office, in order to comply with the Humour of his Masters, and to save his Place, which he might otherwise perhaps have been oblig'd to resign, he declar'd, that she might notwithstanding be admitted of the *Cabinet Council*, there being many Instances of the like Kind in former Reigns; and accordingly she and another Lady were immediately sworn in Members of that Council, in which they sat, to the great Credit and Honour of those that plac'd them there, and to the Admiration of all the World besides, during the remaining Part of that Reign.

WE have thus far seen Mother Gin in her Glory. The Author relates that melancholy Change of Affairs which brought the *Whigs* into Power, in the room of my *L—d B—* and Mother Gin. He shews, that ever since that unfortunate Period, being driven from Court, she liv'd altogether with her well-beloved Rabble, whom she warmed with Zeal for the Church

and the *Tories*, or, as it is called of late, the *Country Interest*. And with Eloquence becoming the Occasion, he bestows the following Panegyrick on her wonderful Success, in promoting the Cause of the Publick.

OF all the Patriots that the present Age has produced in our Country (and sure no Age or Country could ever boast of more) Mother Gin deserves to be placed the foremost in that illustrious List: It was she saved the Nation in the Reign of the late *Q—n*, of blessed Memory, by supporting the new *M—y* in delivering us from a bloody and consuming War, which would infallibly have ruin'd us, if it had been carried on for one Campaign more; it was she saved the Church by protecting Dr. *Sacheverell*, and inspiring the People to pull down the Dissenting Meeting Houses; those Nests of Schism and Sedition! It was she made all the glorious Struggles in the last Reign for restoring the Royal Family of the *S—rts* to the Throne of their Ancestors, which the Iniquity of the Times had most unjustly depriv'd them of; it was she that preserv'd us from the fatal Effects of an Excise on Wine and Tobacco; which was the most dangerous Attempt that ever was made to destroy the Liberties of Britain; and lastly, it is she that has been the chief Prop and Support of the *Country Party*, which has distinguished itself so gloriously in the Cause of Liberty, during the present *A—n*, and which would inevitably have brought about a total Change and Revolution in the *G—t*, if a standing Army had not been continually kept up to awe and intimidate those brave and disinterested Patriots who were engag'd in that great and laudable Design; the *M—y* being appriz'd that Mother Gin had taken such an irreconcilable Aversion to standing Armies, from the dangerous Consequences she apprehended from them to her Country, that no Consideration could prevail upon her to appear in any Undertaking of the least Consequence, if she heard but the Bounce of a Firelock, or the Beat of a Drum.

He then gives us the tragical Relation of her Fall, and the Secret History of the Motives which produced it: a Narrative which ought to be written in Letters of Gold, and therefore I shall give it entire, that the Ingratitude of those Patriots who had such high Obligations to this divine Creature, may be set in a true Light, and that all Men may know the unparalleled Hardships and Sufferings of Mother Gin.

THOUGH the Patriots were extremely fond to have Mother Gin thought to be of their Side, and engaged in their Measures, yet the Coldness and Indifference with which she treated them, gave them Grounds to believe, that they could have no Dependence upon her, any further than as they were united in Interest with the *Tories*; and that if any Breach or Difference should happen among them, she would certainly join with the latter; they knew at the same Time, that if they lost her, they must, by a necessary Consequence, lose what they call'd the *Voice of the People*, which was entirely under her Influence and Direction; and from which they had receiv'd very considerable Advantage, in all their popular Meetings, Elections, and Rejoicings, particularly in the two Cities of London and Bristol; not only famous for their great Wealth and extensive Commerce, but most justly to be admir'd for the decent and modest Deportment of their Inhabitants, and the Regularity and good Order of their Government.

BUT notwithstanding the Services that Mother Gin had occasionally done the Patriots, or might be capable of doing for the future, yet as they were very well assur'd, that what she had done did not proceed from any real Regard or Affection for them, and that, though they had her Voice, yet they had not her Heart; and besides, not being secure of her Friendship, they were afraid of her Enmity, if the Circumstances of Affairs should ever tempt her to turn against them, which was not an unlikely Thing to happen; and likewise wisely considering that in such case, the more powerful she was, as an Ally, the more formidable she would be as an Adversary; and upon the whole Matter balancing the Good she had done them, against the Evil she might do them, they thought it the most prudent and advisable Measure, since she was not a Friend to be rely'd on, to put her out of her Power to be an Enemy to be fear'd, and therefore



therefore they resolved to rid their Hands of her at once, and to sacrifice her to their own Safety and Reasons of State.

THERE was among the Patriots a very sage, grave, and venerable Person, eminent above all for his Virtue, Justice and Integrity, of the most consummate Wisdom and Experience in Affairs, free himself from Passion, Pride, Vanity, Avarice, and all the other Frailties and Imperfections incident to human Nature, and yet mild and indulgent to the Vices, Weaknesses, and Follies of others; of a Disposition so amiable and benevolent, that he was never seen to frown, and at the same Time so composed and serious, that he was never known to smile; austere and rigid to himself, but kind and benevolent to all the World beside; his Temper was always even, his Soul was always open; he was blessed with great Riches, but his Liberality was more extensive than his Wealth: He was a severe Monitor to the Great and Powerful, if they wander'd at any Time out of the Road of Virtue; but easy to be reconciled, and to forgive their post Errors and Miscarriages, when they returned into it again; he was never to be biased in his Conduct by Interest, Prejudice, Friendship or Alliance; he always acted with Impartiality, and therefore whenever he was mistaken in his Judgment, he was not ashamed to own it, and to retract his Opinion.

To this venerable Nestor of the Age, as wise, and almost as old as he we read of in Homer, a select and chosen Number of Patriots had Recourse, to receive his Advice and Directions concerning the Prosecution of *Mother Gin*: They were beginning to open to him the State and Nature of the Case, and to explain to him the Reasons that determin'd them to such a Proceeding; but he presently stopped them short, would not suffer one of them to speak a Word, but took up the Argument himself; run through every Thing that could be said on both Sides of the Question; consider'd it in every Light, weigh'd every Circumstance, debated the Matter over and over again, I mean with himself, for every body else was obliged to be dumb; one while he doubted whether it was a right Measure or no, then he was positive that it was; immediately after he was positive that it was not; then he doubted again, then he was positive again; sometimes he thought it a Matter of the greatest Nicety and Difficulty, at another Time he looked upon it to be so clear and plain, that it did not require a Moment's Deliberation; now he absolutely refused to have any Share or Concern at all in the Affair; now he resolved to take the whole Conduct and Management of it upon himself; and after changing his Opinion twenty different Times, he at last determin'd on nothing.

THE worthy Patriots, who were heartily vex'd with seeing the Person that they promised themselves the chief Assistance from, so very uncertain and irresolute, were at a Loss how to demean themselves under such critical Circumstances; if they differ'd from him in any particular Point, he contradicted himself; if they agreed with him, he contradicted himself; but they were obliged to express their Approbation or Dislike in *dumb Shows*, for he would not suffer them to speak; for if any one endeavour'd to open his Lips, he immediately injoin'd him Silence; if he presum'd to offer any Reasons, he answer'd them before he heard them; they therefore concluded, that it would be the best Way to let him go on till he was tired, and when he could talk no longer himself, they imagin'd he would hear what they had to say.

BUT they were mistaken in their Conjecture; he would not give them an Opportunity to put in one Word, though they had many Things to offer, to shew him the Reasonableness and Necessity of what they propos'd, and that either the Nation or *Mother Gin* must be ruined, but still continuing his Discourse; "Gentlemen, says he, This is an Affair of great Weight and Difficulty; I have turn'd it every Way in my Mind; and the more I consider it, the more Doubts I have about it; 'tis of too much Importance either to be hasten'd or delay'd; we cannot take too much Time before we come to any Resolution; and yet we cannot resolve too soon; I have heard, with great Attention, what you have said for it; I have weigh'd very well what others may say against it; I must do you the Justice to say, that you have put your Arguments in the strongest Light; and I must do myself the Justice to say, that I have done the same by theirs who may be against the Measure that you now propose; but I am far from being convinced either by your Reasons or my own; if you have urg'd many Things of Weight in support of your Side of the Question, I have encounter'd them with Things of full as great Weight that might be urg'd of the other Side of the Question; in this I

have acted with that Candor and Impartiality which always has been, and always shall be the Rule of my Conduct; but I should deviate egregiously from that Rule, if I should determine before I am convinced, which is what you seem to be endeavouring to make me do; but as I am not to be biased by Prejudice, Affection, or Interest, so I am not to be impos'd upon by false Glosses, artful Insinuations, and the Vanity of popular Applause. Truth, Justice and Reason are my Guides, and them alone I will follow. If, through want of Judgment, or want of Attention, I mistake at any time, I am not ashamed to acknowledge my Error; for it is an established Maxim with me, that he who will not own himself to be in the wrong, when he really is so, does not know, or does not care, when he happens to be in the Right. As this is a Principle that I have laid down, and shall always observe; so, upon this Principle, I think, I may safely concur with you in the Prosecution of *Mother Gin*; for tho' I am not satisfied that such a Prosecution is to be justified, yet I am as far from being satisfied that it is not: I am therefore for proceeding against her immediately with all imaginable Vigour. If afterwards, upon mature Deliberation, it should appear to me that I have been mistaken, I shall be very ready and willing, in the Face of the whole World, to confess my Error."

THE Patriots having obtained their Point, made their Obedience, and departed, leaving it to him to reconcile his Principles and his Conduct to his Conscience, as well as he could; for, as to their own Parts, it was the constant Practice with them, in every Thing they undertook, first to complete their Work, and to consider of Reasons for justifying it, after it was done. Thus was the Ruin of *Mother Gin* resolv'd on. And may her Fate be an Example to all Patriots, how little Reliance is to be had upon the Voice or Affections of the People in the Day of Trouble and Adversity; for tho' no Person in our Time ever had so large a Share of popular Love and Esteem as she could boast of, yet she was suffer'd to fall a Sacrifice to her Adversaries, without one Hand lifted up, or even one Tongue to speak in her Defence.

L O N D O N.

Yesterday came Advice by a Mail from France, that the Spaniards have evacuated Parma, Placentia, and Miranda; and as soon as the Duke de Montemar is returned from Naples, whither he is gone to take Leave of the King of the Two Sicilies, the Great Duchy of Tuscany will be entirely evacuated, and all the Spaniards put on board the third Convoy for Barcelona, except the 6000 in Garrison at Leghorn.

Yesterday the House of Commons adjourn'd to Wednesday next, and the House of Lords to next Monday Se'nnight.

Last Tuesday Roger Smith of Richmond, Esq; was married to Miss Simmonds of the same Place, an Heiress of 18,000 l. Fortune.

His Majesty has appointed Charles Twisden, Esq; to be a Sub-Brigadier in the First Troop of Horse Guards, in the room of John Ram, Esq; deceased.

On Wednesday last Mr. Robert Angus, Master of a Vessel trading to Scotland, was convicted before Col. Deveil, of concealing on board his said Vessel, one Robert Thompson, a Deserter out of Col. Creamer's Company in his Majesty's Third Regiment of Foot Guards, knowing him to be so, and carrying him to Scotland; for which he paid the Penalty prescribed by Act of Parliament, which is 5 l.

Yesterday being Maundy Thursday, the Rev. Dr. Gilbert, Dean of Exeter, and Sub-Almoner, in the Absence of his Grace the Lord Bishop of York, distributed the usual Alms at Whitehall, to as many poor Men and Women as his Majesty is Years old.

Last Night the Dutcheffs of Beaufort lay at the Point of Death of the Small-Pox, at his Grace's House in Burlington Gardens.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 147 3-4ths. India 174 1-half. South Sea 97 3-4ths. Old Annuity 112 1-4th for the Opening. New ditto 110 7-8ths. Three per Cent. Annuity 103 7-8ths. Emperor's Loan 116. Royal Assurance 108. London Assurance 14 to 18th without the Dividend. York Buildings 2. African 10. Indis Bonds 6l. 4s. to 6s. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 5 l. 7s. Prem. South Sea Bonds 5l. 17s. to 18s. Premium. New Bank Circulation 6l. 17s. 6d. Premium. Salt Tallies 4 to 5 3-4ths Prem. English Copper 2 l. 3s. Prem. Welsh ditto, no Price. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 1-half per Cent. Premium. Million Bank 115.

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